



Your child or family member may have dengue fever according to their clinical history and physical examination.

If it is dengue, serious complications of the disease can develop. If the complications are recognized early, and a doctor is consulted, it may save the patient's life. Your doctor can order more tests to see if the patient needs to be hospitalized. The doctor can also order specific tests for dengue, but those tests will take longer than a week for the results to come back.

How to Care for the Patient While They Have a Fever:

- ✓ **Bed rest.** Let patient rest as much as possible.
- ✓ **Control the fever.**
 - Give acetaminophen or paracetamol (Tylenol) every 6 hours (maximum 4 doses per day). Do not give ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) aspirin, or aspirin containing drugs.
 - Sponge patient's skin with cool water if fever stays high.
- ✓ **Prevent dehydration** which occurs when a person loses too much fluid (from high fevers, vomiting, or poor oral intake). Give plenty of fluids and watch for signs of dehydration. Bring patient to clinic or emergency room if any of the following signs develop:
 - Decrease in urination (check number of wet diapers or trips to the bathroom)
 - Few or no tears when child cries
 - Dry mouth, tongue or lips
 - Sunken eyes
 - Listlessness or overly agitated or confused
 - Fast heart beat (more than 100/min)
 - Cold or clammy fingers and toes
 - Sunken fontanel in infant
- ✓ **Prevent spread of dengue within your house.**
 - Place patient under bed net or use insect repellent on the patient while they have a fever. Mosquitoes that bite the patient can go on to bite and infect others.
 - KILL all mosquitoes in house and empty containers that carry water on patio.
 - Put screens on windows and doors to prevent mosquitoes from coming into house.

How to Care for the Patient While Fever is Going Away:

- ✓ **Watch for warning signs as temperature declines 3 to 7 days after symptoms began.** Return IMMEDIATELY to clinic or emergency department if any of the following warning signs appear:
 - Severe abdominal pain or persistent vomiting
 - Red spots or patches on the skin
 - Bleeding from nose or gums
 - Vomiting blood
 - Black, tarry stools
 - Drowsiness or irritability
 - Pale, cold, or clammy skin
 - Difficulty breathing

You should have available the name and telephone number of your doctor and ask for clarifications if needed.

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